

## Message Text

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11

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /104 W

----- 089836

R 061657Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1108

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PASS STR FOR ACTION

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJ: MORE COOPERATIVE FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD MTN?

1. SUMMARY. A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH DEL INDICATES SETTLEMENT AT JAMAICA OF U.S.-FRENCH MONETARY POLICY DISPUTE HAS INDUCED GOF TO ADOPT MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PROGRESS IN SOME AREAS OF MTN.RECENTMINISTERIAL CHANGES IN PARIS ALSO INTERPRETED BY FRENCH REP AS A PLUS FOR GREATER FRENCH INTEREST IN TRADE MATTERS. WHILE NO BREAK-THROUGH TO RESOLVE SUBSTANCE OF US-EC (FREHCN) DIFFERENCES ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, FRANCE APPARENTLY DISPOSED COOPERATE IN EFFORT TO "COOL IT" IN '76. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH COLMANT EARLIER  
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THIS WEEK AND FOUND HIM IN A MORE MELLOW AND EXPANSIVE--AND INDEED

COOPERATIVE--FRAME OF MIND THAN HERETOFORE. HE GAVE ME LENGTHY HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF DEEP-SEATED INSISTENCE WITHIN FRENCH BUREAUCRACY FOR SETTLEMENT OF U.S.-FRENCH MONETARY POLICY DISPUTE BEFORE FRANCE WOULD ENGAGE SERIOUSLY IN NEGOTIATION TO SETTLE U.S.-EC (FRENCH) TRADE PROBLEMS. HE TRACED THIS BACK TO END OF KENNEDY ROUND AND SAID BUREAUCRACY CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY NIXON-POMPIDOU AGREEMENT IN DECEMBER 1972 TO INITIATE NEW ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IMPLYING FRENCH BUREAUCRACY REMAINED UNWILLING TO COOPERATE IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL MONETARY DISPUTE SETTLED. IN RECENT JAMAICA AGREEMENT THIS OBSTACLE HAS BEEN OVERCOME AND COLMANT SAID DECISIONS HAVE NOW BEEN MADE IN PARIS TO COOPERATE IN EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO SOME TRADE MATTERS. TWO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES CITED WERE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. WITH RESPECT TO LATTER, COLMANT SAID GOF IS INTERESTED IN REACHING A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, QUESTIONS FEASIBILITY OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS IN OECD BECAUSE LATTER IS NOT A NEGOTIATING FORUM, AND LDC INTERESTS MEAN IT WILL HAVE TO MOVE TO MTN. HE ASCRIBED FRENCH INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE TO A NEW AND MORE REALISTIC SENSE OF CONFIDENCE WITHIN FRANCE AS TO FRENCH COMPETITIVE ABILITY IN SOME SECTORS WHERE GOVERNMENT PURCHASING IS A MAJOR ELEMENT, CITING AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AS AN EXAMPLE.

3. COLMANT'S OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT EXTEND TO AGRICULTURE, HOWEVER, BUT EVEN HERE HE THOUGHT FRANCE WOULD COOPERATE IN JOINT EFFORT WITH EC COMMISSION AND U.S. TO MINIMIZE CONFRONTATIONS IN MTN IN 1976. HE FEELS SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROBLEM AS IT RELATES OR DOES NOT RELATE TO AGRICULTURE TO BE THE MOST DIFFICULT SINGLE PROBLEM BETWEEN U.S. AND EC. HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE GAP MIGHT BE BRIDGED.

4. COLMANT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT APPOINTMENT OF BARRE WOULD BE A PLUS FOR FRENCH ATTENTION TO TRADE PROBLEMS. HE NOTED BARRE'S PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GISCARD WHEN BARRE WAS EC COMMISSIONER AND GISCARD FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER.

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5. WHILE COLMANT'S VIEWS MUST ALWAYS BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION, I WAS PERSONALLY HEARTENED BY GENERAL ATTITUDE HE EVINCE DURING THIS MEETING. WALKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MONETARY AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MTNGE00882  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760047-0328  
**From:** MTN GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacnhs.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION STR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORE COOPERATIVE FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD MTN?  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EFIN, FR, US, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006